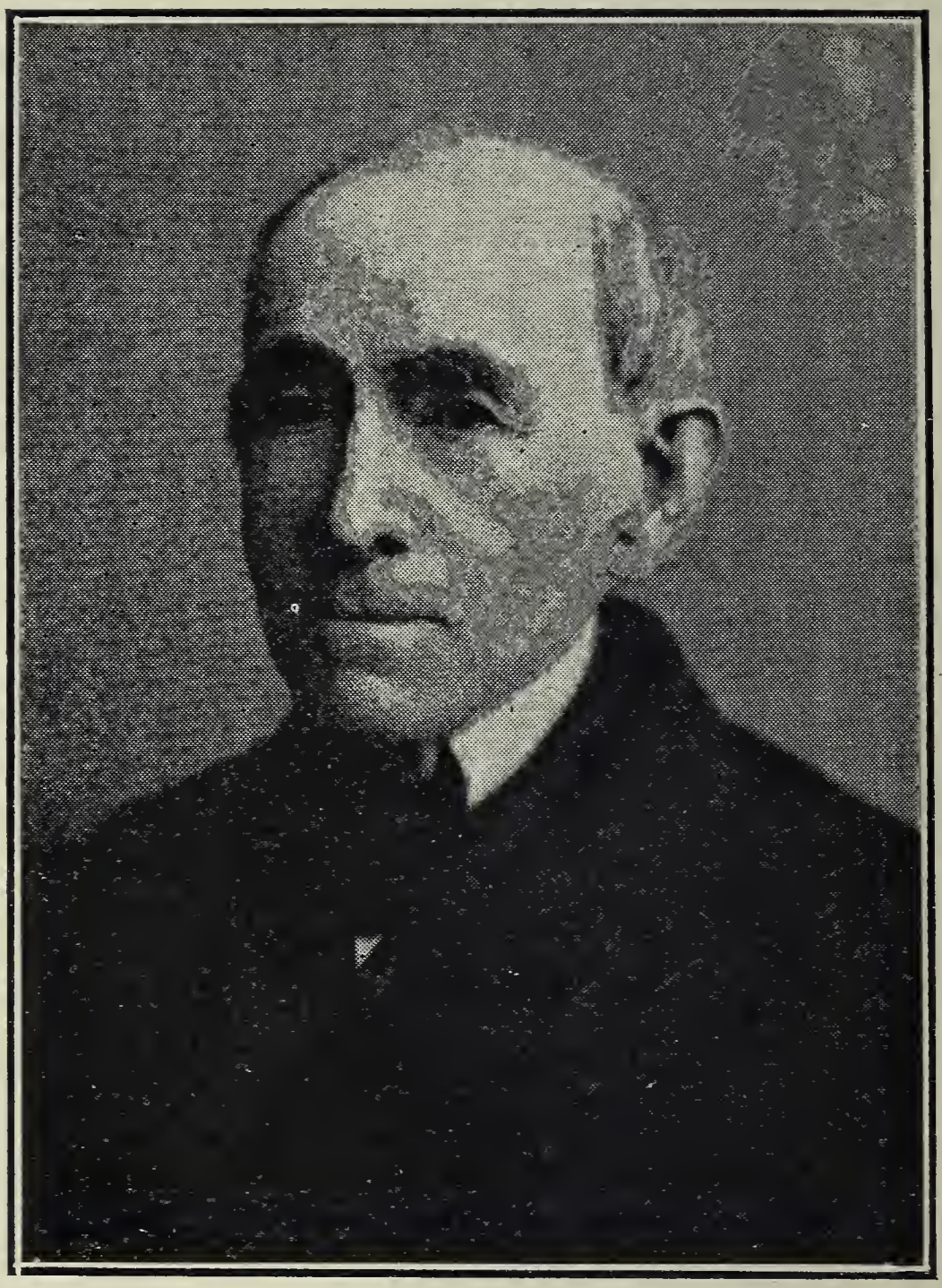
AMONG THE MAKERS OF GIRARD COLLEGE

BY WALTER C. GOLD, '90

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JAMES CAMPBELL

Judge Campbell

UPON another page is contained our biographical sketch of the late Hon. Judge James Campbell, who lived to be eighty ears of age. Judge Campbell was a close student of the Will and purposes of Stephen Girard. Having been appointed to the original Board of City Trusts, September 2, 1869, he devoted himself unstintingly to the affairs of Girard College. For twenty-four years he served s Chairman of Committee on Instruction at the College. He was also interested in the other rusts coming under the jurisdiction of the Board. Not only did he serve Girard College, ut the city, state and nation with characteristic eal. His entire career is well worth study.

JAMES CAMPBELL

Decidedly prominent among the fifteen original members of the Board of Directors of City Trusts, appointed September 2, 1869, was the late Hon. James Campbell. Only two other members of that galaxy of men survived longer than did Judge Campbell, who died January 27, 1893, at the age of eighty-one. The other two were the late John H. Michener, who died September 16, 1906, and the late Wm. B. Mann, who died October 17, 1896.

Judge Campbell was born September 1, 1812, at 732 S. Third Street, Philadelphia. He was the third child of a family of seven, his parents being Anthony and Catharine Campbell; his mother's maiden name was Catharine McGarvey. He was educated at Gregory's Academy and at G. T. Stockdale's Academy, both at that day, of this city. After graduation, he studied law under the late Edward D. Ingraham, a prominent attorney of that period. At the early age of twenty-nine (1841) he was appointed Judge of the Common Pleas Court by Governor David R. Porter and served ten years in this capacity. In 1851 he was appointed Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor William Bigler.

Judge Campbell was appointed Postmaster General of the United States by Franklin Pierce, taking office March 4, 1853. This distinguished Cabinet served throughout the four years with-

ut any change whatsoever. There were some elebrated men connected with Pierce's Cabinet. nd in the office of Mr. John M. Campbell, his on, who is now a member of the Board of City rusts, are contained the photographs of this oterie, among the number being Jefferson Davis f Civil War fame. Mr. Campbell also pos-esses the certificates of appointment of his ather to the Court of Common Pleas, and to ie Pennsylvania Attorney Generalship. Nat-rally, Mr. Campbell highly prizes these framed ementos of his illustrious sire.

ACTIVITIES WITH CITY TRUSTS BOARD.

Judge Campbell was appointed to the original oard of City Trusts, September 2, 1869, at the istance of the late Judge James R. Ludlow, hose portrait also hangs in Mr. Campbell's of-e. Judge Campbell was Vice-President of the oard of City Trusts from November 9, 1892, January 27, 1893, the date of his death. He as immediately made Chairman of the impor-nt Committee on Instruction, and it is a co-cidence that Mr. John M. Campbell is now hairman of the same committee. As Chair-an, Judge Campbell served from the year 1869 ntil 1893, a period of almost twenty-four years, nd devoted himself unstintingly to its work. was his custom every Thursday to visit Gir-d College early in the day, and he remained at e Institution throughout the entire period, siting the schoolrooms and conversing and con-rring with the authorities. Altogether, he ent two days each week at the College. He rved also upon the Committees of Finance,

Wills' Eye Hospital and Minor Trusts, and th Girard Estate within the city of Philadelphia.

The writer well remembers the Judge comin through the schoolrooms. He was the terror o the bad boy. Judge Campbell believed, an rightly so, that every boy coming under the ben eficent provisions of Stephen Girard's Wi should behave himself; and if a teacher reporte the offender to Judge Campbell, he did not hesi tate to show his displeasure. It was at Girar College that the Judge met his death, as it were for it was there, while visiting the schools, tha he contracted a cold, which resulted in pneu monia, and being an aged man, he quickly suc cumbed.

During Judge Campbell's connection with th Board of City Trusts, many improvements wer made, among the number being the erection o Building No. 7, East Boiler House, Bakery an Laundry, Building No. 8, first extension to th Infirmary, West Boiler House, Mechanic School Building, Building No. 9 and Buildin No. 10. He served Girard College during a ver important phase of its history and the wor which he accomplished is reflected in the Colleg to-day.

OTHER INTERESTS.

Judge Campbell was President of the Jeffe son Medical College for a quarter of a centu (1876 to 1891). During this entire service h was an *ex-officio* member of all the committe of Jefferson Medical College. As in all h work, he took a profound interest in the welfa of this prominent Philadelphia institution, th President of which is now the Hon. Willia

Potter. Judge Campbell was also a member of the Beneficial Saving Fund, Twelfth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. He was connected with this institution for a period of thirty years. For forty-five years he was connected with St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, at 700 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, and was Vice-President at the time of his demise. Like his contemporary, the late George H. Stuart, Judge Campbell devoted his entire life to social service—for the uplift of humanity.

IMPROVES POSTAL SERVICE.

As a Postmaster General Judge Campbell made a great record. He introduced the registry system, that great arm of the postal service, which handles nearly all moneys and securities exchanged between the banks of the world. He established the important principle that postage on all domestic mail matter must be prepaid, thus saving the service from needless waste of time, and accounts of a petty kind, in the foreign mail service.

He inaugurated the era of low postage by signing a treaty with Bremen, under which all half-ounce letters between Bremen and the United States were carried for ten cents each, provided they were carried in American or Bremen steamers. It was with Bremen and the countries beyond that we first exchanged registered letters in the foreign service. Those steps are felt to this day, the Bremen Line carrying a larger American mail than any other.

The convention with Bremen forced England into concessions, which were previously denied,

the British Postoffice clinging, perversely, to th mail rates established by Queen Anne in 1710.

Finally Postmaster General Campbell oppose all mail contracts of an unbusiness-like nature.

Stamped envelopes were introduced in Post master General Campbell's time. Before Judg Campbell's administration in the Postoffice De partment, the postage stamps were furnished o one sheet, and to separate them you were ob loged to use scissors or knives. The method no employed in separating stamps came into us during Judge Campbell's term of service.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Judge Campbell was a man of virile and bril liant intellect and was an indefatigable worke He was an omnivorous reader and used ofte to say that anyone who had a good book pos sessed a good companion. He was a man o medium size with sharp features and gray eye which were surmounted by a very heavy pair o eyebrows. He always wore a high silk hat an was plainly, but neatly dressed. During his lat ter years he carried a heavy cane, and even u until the time of his death he was unusually ac tive for a man of his matured years. He die as he so often desired—"in harness." Th Judge passed away January 27, 1893, and wa interred in St. Mary's Churchyard, Fourth an Locust Streets, this city, where he had been member all his life.